



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
CAREER ARMED CRIMINAL SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS
FOR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's sentencing is part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

John W. Overcast, 34, of Kansas City, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this morning to 15 years in federal prison without parole. **Overcast's** sentence was increased due to the fact that he is a career armed criminal, Graves said.

On Oct. 28, 2003, **Overcast** pleaded guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. By pleading guilty, **Overcast** admitted that he was in possession of a Glock .40 caliber semi-automatic pistol on June 12, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Overcast** has a 2000 criminal felony conviction for receiving stolen property in Jackson County, Mo., and 1998 criminal felony convictions for tampering and theft in Clay County, Mo.

Overcast was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in a criminal complaint filed on June 13, 2003, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on July 8, 2003, in Kansas City.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney K. Michael Warner. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal

prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms. Project Ceasefire has resulted in federal charges against 590 defendants, and convictions against 500 of those defendants, including 472 who pleaded guilty and 28 who were convicted at trial.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow